Waiting list of telephone connections in Orissa and Himachal Pradesh

†*413. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of land telephone connections installed by public and private companies during the last two years in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) the position of waiting list in the two States as on the 31st March, 2005; and

(c) the number of villages connected with telecommunication services through various telecommunicating systems in the two States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The number of landlines telephone connections provided by BSNL & Private companies during the last two years in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa are given below:

State	Number of Landline Telephones			
	2003-04		2004-05	
	BSNL	PVT.	BSNL	PVT.
Himachal Pradesh	3780	—	12064	0
Orissa	33752	—	32754	115

As per the available information, the private operators have provided only 115 landline telephone connections in Orissa. No. landline connection was provided by them in Himachal Pradesh during these two years.

(b) The position of waiting list for BSNL phones as on 31.03.2005 is given below:

Himachal Pradesh	45207
Orissa	40958

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The number of villages connected by Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by BSNL through various technologies as on 31.03.2005 in the two States are as given below:—

Name of State	MARR Based	Land Line	INMARSAT	C-DOT/ PMP	WLL	Total Villages Covered
Himachal Pradesh	269	14117	17	84 3	2100	16587
Orissa	2929	15963	0		21858	40753

Investment by Overseas Indians

†*414. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of overseas Indians who have expressed their intention to make capital investment in the States of the country during current financial year together with the names of the States in which they intend to make investment;

(b) the manner in which Government are encouraging overseas Indian to make capital investment in India; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (c) State-wise data is enclosed as Statement (See below). Government has put in place a liberal and transparent FDI policy (which covers investment by overseas Indians) under which FDI upto 100% is allowed under the automatic route in most sectors. Proposals requiring prior Government approval are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in a time bound manner. Government is also working with State Governments to promote investment by overseas Indians by developing and offering specific projects to them.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.